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beaten them to publication date with his careful chronicle of the Bay of Pigs invasion (NEWSWEEK, May 18).

The authors score many firsts—Nixon wanted the Cuban invasion *before* the 1960 election, and Adlai Stevenson *was* aware of the outline of the Bay of Pigs operation when he made his famous U.N. denial. But the main theme of "The Invisible Government" is that executive control of political and paramilitary operations is inadequate and that the agencies escape the watchful eye of Congress.

'54/12': Ironically, much of the authors' argument about the lack of executive control is dissipated by one of their own major revelations: the existence of the special group "54/12," a hitherto classified adjunct of the National Security Council, specifically charged by the President with ruling on special operations. Practically speaking, there are no higher-level figures imaginable than the composition of "54/12": McGeorge Bundy as the President's personal representative, Cyrus Vance for the Defense Department, U. Alexis Johnson for State, and John McCone of CIA.

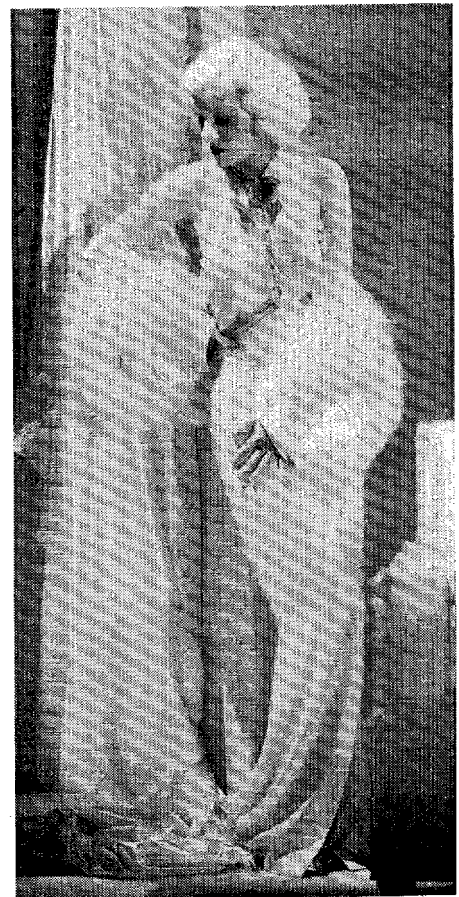
Although the authors also overstate the shortcomings of current legislative control over the invisible government—meaning not just the CIA but the entire military-intelligence complex as well—their point is well taken. The members of the Appropriations and Armed Forces subcommittees who monitor agency activities are not versatile enough to evaluate the broad range of agency activities—particularly those with foreign-policy implications. It was a non-committeeman, Sen. William Fulbright, who stood almost alone in foreseeing the political ramifications of the Bay of Pigs.

But if the authors score points on this issue, they trample security restrictions by naming names and facts beyond what is necessary to make their case. The CIA tried to pressure changes in the book; suggested it was "unpatriotic" for Random House to publish it; then, according to columnist Marquis Childs, considered buying up the copies of the book already in print "on condition the book would be revised." The CIA alleges 120 violations, including the identification of agency staffers and operations still in progress. Experts on Soviet intelligence state unequivocally that much of this information "could not have been acquired by the Soviet secret service."

Cryptograms: An unsettling number of inaccuracies raise doubts about the validity of other sections. The Defense Communication Agency, not the National Security Agency, is responsible for the Hot Line; ciphers and codes are confused in their definition; Soviet defector Reino Hayhanen died of acute alcoholism, not in an auto accident as

the authors pick up straight out of The New York Times; ex-deputy director Robert Amory Jr. did know of the Bay of Pigs operation, and so on.

"The secret intelligence machinery of the government," say the authors, "can never be totally reconciled with the traditions of a free republic." This is an unexceptionable statement that doesn't begin to outline the complexities of the issue. Although the proliferations of bureaucracy have their own obvious drawbacks, most CIA insiders (unlike former chief Allen Dulles) accept the need for a joint Congressional watchdog committee—if only to serve as a lightning rod grounding such attacks as this book.



Harlow: A queen defiled

Shame on Shulman

HARLOW. By Irving Shulman. 408 pages. Geis. \$5.95.

The dead, of course, can't sue. Unfortunately, Jean Harlow, "The Blond Bombshell" of Hollywood in the '30s, is dead. And so is the other principal figure of this protracted effusion of speculative gossip, her second husband, Paul Bern. Irving Shulman has made the most of his immunity and has written a book that may henceforth be a standard by which to measure shoddiness.

"How could it be possible for the



Surveyor



Nurse



Geologist



Physical Education Instructor



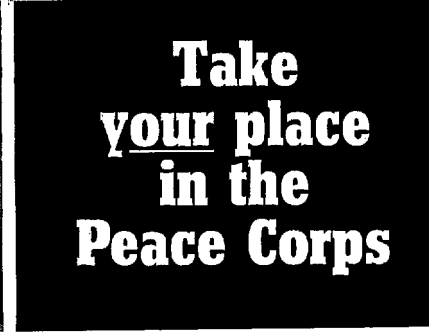
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inently in his writing, especially in his first novel "Flash and Filigree." "Doctors are the most powerful people in our society today," he said, "except for teachers of Method acting, who have a more dedicated, more intelligent following."

'Suicidal': Southern went to Paris on the GI Bill, wrote a lot for Paris Review and other token-paying little magazines. "James Baldwin was there. It was a little world, sealed off, all American or English." Back in New York he got a job on a barge "carrying rocks from Poughkeepsie to somewhere." His wife, Carol, did the cooking. "Captaining a barge," said Southern, "is one of the few bearable jobs for a writer. Fire-watching is another. It's suicidal for a writer to have a permanent job."

Ironically, Southern now has a 39-acre farm in the Berkshires, complete with cows, chickens, and sheep. But he has no intention of going square. Until the last lingering taboos are destroyed, he says, "the effect of art should be iconoclastic. But the motivation should be impulsive, natural." Southern, always the iconoclast, adds, "Unfortunately, not all our writers should trust their impulses. Some of them, like Norman Mailer, have lousy impulses."

Secrets of Freedom

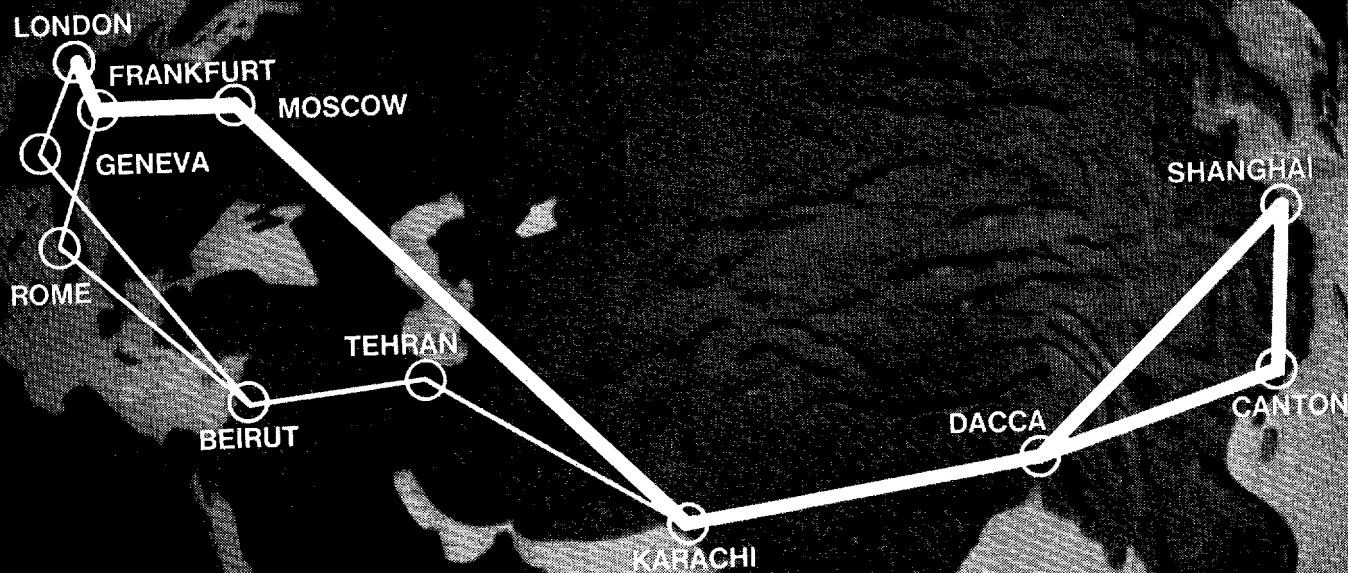
THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT. By David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. 375 pages. Random House. \$5.95.

Conspiracy theory is as old as fear itself; what is new is its adaptation into non-ideological, smartly packaged presentation for the sophisticated American intelligentsia. David Wise of The New York Herald Tribune and Thomas Ross of The Chicago Sun-Times are two 34-year-old Washington correspondents who are Madison Avenue-handly at the business of exploiting general concerns and fears about official Washington.

But where dedicated conspiracy theorizers like the late C. Wright Mills and Fred Cook speak to a hard-core audience that knows its enemies (J. Edgar Hoover, all cold warriors, the CIA, the Pentagon), Wise and Ross know how to exploit much subtler concerns among a much wider audience.

They are not ideologues, but reporters with a talent for bird-dogging facts and a sharp sense of timing about the best-seller list. Two years ago they wrote "The U-2 Affair" when interest was high in the bungling that followed Francis Gary Powers' disastrous flight in May 1960. That mess and the CIA's subsequent roles at the Bay of Pigs and in Cuban and Southeast Asian policy have made the CIA hot copy. As reporters, Wise and Ross cannot be faulted for writing on what is current—although reporter Haynes Johnson has

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LETTERS

Breach Of Security

To The Editor:

In the June 16th issue of Look magazine there is an article revealing the presence and location of a CIA agency in this area. Whether this be fact or not, I'm sure I speak for every American when I say it's sad enough to think that our adversaries know our every move, without serving it to them on a silver platter!

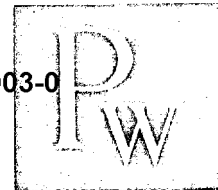
CAROL OWEN, Miami

★ ★ ★

To The Editor:

For the sake of discussion let us assume that there is a CIA office here in Miami. Does Look magazine consider their disclosing it a "big scoop?" Are we not, as Americans, permitted to have Central Intelligence Agencies wherever we may need them? Look magazine along with another four lettered magazine will never be read by me. Their articles, editorials and photos do not, in my opinion, contribute anything to the security of the U.S. They doubtlessly will continue to have many subscribers, but being fortunate enough to live in a country that is still free, I am still able to present my views, loud and clear.

LILLIAN GRONSDUND, Miami



PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY, JUNE 8, 1964, VOLUME 185, NO. 23

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CURRENTS

SECURITY BREACH CHARGED

A storm is brewing over a June 22 Random House book, "The Invisible Government" by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. A recent column by Marquis Childs in the *Washington Post* quoted unnamed "high government officials" as being deeply disturbed about the information disclosed in the book as to the operations of the CIA, the National Security Agency and an even more top secret central coordinating group. Mr. Childs' "high official" was quoted as saying that if a book like this were published in the Soviet Union "the authors could be put in jail for life." According to the *Washington Post* the Wise-Ross book contains 112 breaches of security, some of them so serious that the usefulness of certain CIA agents will be destroyed by the disclosures in the book. It is also charged that supposedly secret operations are revealed in detail.

RANDOM HOUSE'S REBUTTAL

Random House's reply to all this is that no such allegations about breaches of security have been made formally to the firm by any government official and that they are, in fact, "nonsense," since all of the material in the book has been published in one way or another previously. Random House president Bennett Cerf takes the position that it would be contrary to the public interest to try to suppress the book. Since the Marquis Childs column appeared the publishing house has received many letters from individuals anxious to order the book before the CIA takes any action against it. The first printing is 20,000 copies and the "high government officials" quoted by Mr. Childs were reported to have said that it would be to the advantage of the government to buy up all the advance copies on condition the book would be revised.

SHAKESPEARE BANQUET AT HAMPTON COURT

"By gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen," Hampton Court Banquet Hall will be opened for a banquet, for the first time in some 300 years, on June 24. The occasion is a "Midsummer Night's Dinner"